


PAUL VIGNA | **AND** | **MICHAEL J. CASEY**

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THE AGE OF

CRYPTO



CURRENCY

HOW BITCOIN AND THE 
BLOCKCHAIN ARE CHALLENGING THE
GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER 

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WITH A NEW AFTERWORD

The Age of Cryptocurrency



How Bitcoin and the Blockchain
Are Challenging the Global
Economic Order

PAUL VIGNA

and

MICHAEL J. CASEY

Picador St. Martin's Press New York

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For information, address Picador, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

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Designed by Omar Chapa

The Library of Congress has cataloged the St. Martin's Press edition as follows:

Vigna, Paul.

The age of cryptocurrency: how bitcoin and digital money are
challenging the global economic order / Paul Vigna, Michael J. Casey.—
First edition.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-1-250-06563-6 (hardcover)

ISBN 978-1-4668-7306-3 (e-book)

1. Electronic commerce. 2. Electronic funds transfers. 3. Currency question.

I. Casey, Michael J. II. Title

HF5548.32.V54 2015

332.4'2—dc23

2014033302

Picador Paperback ISBN 978-1-250-08155-1

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use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and
Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945, extension 5442, or by
e-mail at MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com.

First published by St. Martin's Press

First Picador Edition: January 2016

10 9 8 7

For Elizabeth

—PV

For Mum and Dad

—MC

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"Smart and conscientious, *The Age of Cryptocurrency* is the most thorough and readable account of the short life of this controversial currency."

— THE WASHINGTON POST

It can buy you anything from a slice of pizza to a luxury villa. It might be worth anywhere from a few dollars to a few thousand dollars. As mysterious as it is disruptive, it is at once everywhere and nowhere at all, a cyber-enigma that raises the question: What exactly is bitcoin, and why should anyone care about it, anyway?

In *The Age of Cryptocurrency*, business journalists Paul Vigna and Michael J. Casey deliver the definitive answer.

Bitcoin is digital money for a digital age, and although it's often associated in the public mind with instability, wild fluctuation, and illicit dealings, its underlying "blockchain" technology is poised to launch a revolution. The blockchain can handle everything from merchant payments and copyright management to personal IDs and



"smart" legal contracts. While opponents decry the now-infamous Mt. Gox and Silk Road fiascos, bitcoin's supporters herald a great equalizer imbued with the potential

to reinvent and reinvigorate the global marketplace. Some people fear it will eliminate jobs; others insist it will bring billions of "unbanked" individuals into a new and expanded world economy.

Whatever your position, one thing is clear: cryptocurrency is here to stay.

It implies wide-reaching change—for better and for worse—and you ignore it at your peril.

Vigna and Casey demystify cryptocurrency, detailing everything you'll need to know to navigate a crypto-economy. The digital currency world will look very different from the paper currency world; *The Age of Cryptocurrency* will teach you how to be ready for it.

"For any book on bitcoin to be worth reading, it has to delve further: into the cryptocurrency's ideological and technical roots, for instance, or what it adds to the narrative of money, or even what its economic and political impact may be.... There is plenty to write about if you are serious. Paul Vigna and Michael Casey, two journalists at *The Wall Street Journal*, are certainly serious."

— THE ECONOMIST

COVER DESIGN BY DAVID J. HIGH / HIGHOZN.COM

COVER IMAGES: BITCOIN BY ALEXANDER KIRCH/SHUTTERSTOCK;
HOLOGRAM BY DIMEDROL68/SHUTTERSTOCK

PICADOR // PICADORUSA.COM
175 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010
PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Nonfiction

US \$18.00 / CAN \$20.50

ISBN 978-1-250-08155-1



9 781250 081551